

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4806
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRCNCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3018

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: GUZMAN DESCRIBES MEETING WITH BALAGUER

1. EMBOFFS WERE ASKED TO COME BY TO SEE ANTONIO GUZMAN
THIS NOON. OBVIOUS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR MEETING WAS
GUZMAN'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PRE-INAUGURAL VISIT
TO U.S. (SEPTTEL); HOWEVER HE ALSO DESCRIBED HIS MAY 30
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

2. IN MEETING, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BEING QUITE
FRIENDLY, GUZMAN EXPRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT UNDER
THE PRD ADMINISTRATION NOT ONLY BALAGUER BUT ALSO HIS
FAMILY AND HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES WOULD HAVE "FULL
GUARANTEES," PRESUMABLY MEANING THAT THEIR PERSONAL
SECURITY AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS WOULD BE VOUCHSAFED.

3. GUZMAN SAID BALAGUER OFFERED HIM A MILITARY ESCORT
AND ASKED HIM TO CHOOSE HIS OWN MEN, BUT HE ASKED THE
PRESIDENT TO CHOOSE THE ESCORT, SAYING BALAGUER
KNEW THE MILITARY BETTER. GUZMAN TOLD EMBOFFS
HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE ANY DOUBT IN BALAGUER'S
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MIND THAT HE HAS FULL FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM.

4. GUZMAN ALSO SAID "CONFIDENTIALLY" THAT BALAGUER
SHOWED HIM WITH PRAISE AND SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY
THAT HE, AND NOT SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO (NOW PARTY
PRESIDENT AND SENATOR-ELECT FROM SANTO DOMINGO), WAS
THE PRD PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS

OF THE COUNTRY ARE ESSENTIALLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND HE, DON ANTONIO, A CATTLE RANCHER AND DAIRYMAN, WAS BEST EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THEM.

5. THE SECOND IN A PLANNED SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH BALAGUER WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT WEEK. GUZMAN HOPES CAUTIOUSLY TO PREVAIL ON THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE HIM, GUZMAN, AND HIS PEOPLE INTO CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES THAT BALAGUER IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DO SO.

6. HE SEEMED TO BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT HIS NEW ADMINISTRATION WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS SECTORS EARLY ON. HE SPOKE PROUDLY OF A MEETING LAST EVENING IN A PRIVATE HOME WITH ABOUT FORTY LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT ALL PRESENT SEEMED CONVINCED OF THE MODERATION OF HIS PROPOSED ECONOMIC POLICIES. HE WAS ASSURED BY THOSE PRESENT THAT PLANNED INVESTMENTS WOULD PROCEED AHEAD.

7. COMMENT: GUZMAN SEEMED CALM AND CONFIDENT. HE APPEARS TO SEE BALAGUER HIMSELF AS THE ESSENTIAL GUARANTEE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF ADMINISTRATIONS. GUZMAN'S CONCERN WITH FACING NOW WHAT PROMISE TO BE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION IS WELL PLACED.
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